

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUCNDT #1045 3130054
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 080054Z NOV 08
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5323
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAB/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY 1370

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 001045

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IV](#)
SUBJECT: UNSC PRESSURES COTE D'IVOIRE FOR ELECTIONS
FOLLOWING LATEST DELAY

REF: A. USUN 931
[1](#)B. UNSC S/2008/PRST/42

[1](#)1. (SBU) The Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement (Ref. B) on November 7 urging all Ivorian parties to cooperate fully to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections as soon as possible. This was in response SRSG Choi's report to the Council on October 27 which noted elections in Cote d'Ivoire would need to be delayed until at least spring 2009. Choi warned if elections were not held by the spring, restricted travel during the summer rainy season would force a delay until fall. While French PermRep Ripert noted on October 27 that a delay beyond spring 2009 would indicate a lack of political will of the major Ivorian players, others in the French mission say that fall 2009 elections would be acceptable.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Choi noted in his briefing fewer than 800,000 out of 11 million Ivorians had been identified and only 500,000 out of 9 million expected eligible voters been enrolled. Choi also explained elections could only be scheduled four months following voter enrollment, since making and distributing election cards and organizing polling stations could take at least that long. Cote d'Ivoire President Gbagbo is expected to officially announce the election delay November 10, according to the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire.
Khalilzad